

Feb 25th, 2016

Sub: On problems in recent 6th/7th Grade Framework Draft

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am Dr Ashutosh Gupta. I stay in Santa Clara, and work as Principal Data Scientist for Walmart Labs. I have a PhD in physics, and I am also pursuing cancer research work actively with NIH.

I was personally present during the Jan 22nd hearing to make a personal appeal for regarding problems in 6th/7th grade textbooks and the framework. A written version of my request is attached here.

It is my sincere request to please share this with all respected members of the IQC for History and Social Sciences.

Warmly,
Ashutosh.

I am Dr Ashutosh Gupta and I am a data scientist. The Californian Education Code Section 51501, 60040 and 60044 promise a fair and positive representation for all religious traditions.

We are proud of these laws for their promise of liberty and justice. Yet somehow this doesn't seem to apply for Hinduism and Hindu kids. Over last few (years/review cycles) several hundreds of Hindu kids have come here to Sacramento to share their plight. Irrespective of this, even the most recent framework draft continues to carry, from the past, both errors by omission and errors by commission.

On one hand the contribution of Women to Hindu religious texts is completely omitted. On the other hand, speculations are presented in a derogatory fashion. All major religions have had a patriarchal system, yet you are mentioning it only in case of Hinduism.

The facts found in a famous 2001 OECD Study [1] conclude that (a Hindu) India was contributing more than 20% of world's GDP for first 1800 out of last 2000 years is omitted, but it is mentioned that early Hindus were animal herders. Please tell me early followers of which religions were not animal herders. In fact from Moses to Mohammad, prophets of all major Abrahamic faiths herded animals according to their own belief. But you don't mention it for Judaism, Christianity or Islam.

Be it this case or so many other gross errors by commission and errors by omission, why is Hinduism being singled out and measured against a different yardstick?

Isn't this is in violation of both the letter and spirit of the California state law?

[1] Angus, Maddison. "The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective." *Paris: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development* (2001) (Table B–20. Shares of World GDP, 20 Countries and Regional Totals, 0–1998 A.D. Page 263)

<http://www.oecd.org/dev/developmentcentrestudiestheworldeconomyamillennialperspective.htm>